

IN IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF SOUTH CAROLINA

Latorey J. Greene, Sr., #292916,)	C/A No.: 3:19-3312-MGL-SVH
)	
Plaintiff,)	
)	
vs.)	
)	
Ken Young, Jr., Patrick Wright,)	
Casey Dale Cornwell, Jack Howle,)	ORDER
Daniel Gourley, W. Harry Connor,)	
Jr., Susan Mayes, Charles Brooks,)	
III, and Kelly Jackson,)	
)	
Defendants.)	
)	

Latorey J. Greene, Sr. (“Plaintiff”), a state prisoner proceeding pro se, brought this civil rights action alleging a violation of his constitutional rights. This matter is before the court on Plaintiff’s motion for appointment of counsel. [ECF No. 2].

There is no constitutional right to appointment of counsel in civil cases. While the court is granted the power to exercise its discretion to appoint counsel for an indigent party in a civil action, 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(1); *Smith v. Blackledge*, 451 F.2d 1201 (4th Cir. 1971), such appointment “should be allowed only in exceptional cases.” *Cook v. Bounds*, 518 F.2d 779, 780 (4th Cir. 1975).

Plaintiff requests appointed counsel because (1) he is indigent; (2) his

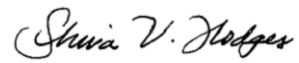
imprisonment limits his ability to litigate the issues and conduct research and investigation; (3) counsel could more adequately present evidence and cross-examine witnesses during a trial; and (4) counsel could better address the history of the alleged constitutional violations. [ECF No. 2].

After a review of the file, this court has determined that there are no exceptional or unusual circumstances presented that would justify the appointment of counsel, nor would Plaintiff be denied due process if an attorney were not appointed. *Whisenant v. Yuam*, 739 F.2d 160 (4th Cir. 1984). In most civil rights cases, the issues are not complex, and whenever such a case brought by an uncounseled litigant goes to trial, the court outlines proper procedure so the uncounseled litigant will not be deprived of a fair opportunity to present his case.

The undersigned acknowledges nonbinding precedent from United States Courts of Appeals for the Third and Seventh Circuits requiring courts considering motions pursuant to § 1915(e)(1) to evaluate a pro se plaintiff's competence to litigate the case. *See Pruitt v. Mote*, 503 F.3d 647, 649 (7th Cir. 2007); *Montgomery v. Pinchak*, 294 F.3d 492, 499 (3d Cir. 2002). Although the Fourth Circuit has articulated no similar requirement, the undersigned finds Plaintiff's pleadings demonstrate he is sufficiently competent to pursue his own claim. Accordingly, Plaintiff's request for a discretionary appointment of counsel under 28 U.S.C. §1915(e)(1) is denied.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

December 3, 2019
Columbia, South Carolina

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Shiva V. Hodges". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Shiva V. Hodges
United States Magistrate Judge